

# Press Release

## HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### Department of Emergency Services



#### PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe  
Harford"

#### EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,  
Building for the Future"

#### EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

#### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining  
Harford's Prosperity"

#### ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our  
Environment"

#### QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is  
Important to Harford  
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 4, 2014

Media Contact: Robert B. Thomas, Jr. at 410-638-3408 or 443-617-1954

### **Snow and Freezing Rain Predicted for Region**

*Early morning commute could be impacted*

(Forest Hill, MD) - - Harford County public safety officials are preparing for yet another severe winter storm event. The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a Winter Storm Warning for snow, sleet and freezing rain for the area. The storm is expected to impact Harford County between 10:00 p.m. Tuesday evening through mid-morning Wednesday.

Harford County Emergency Manager Rick Ayers of the Harford County Department of Emergency Services (DES) is advising citizens to prepare for slippery, ice covered roads as temperatures drop below freezing through the night. According to the NWS, Harford County could receive two inches of snow, followed by freezing rain and as much as one-quarter inch of ice.

"The last weather reports we have received indicate a serious weather event, to include freezing rain and ice will hit Harford County late tonight and into Wednesday morning", Ayers said. "Wednesday morning's commute may be hazardous as snow and rain turn to ice, thus making driving conditions difficult at best", Ayers added.

The Harford County Department of Emergency Services reminds motorists to allow extra time for their commute, as well as to reduce speed and maintain a safe distance from vehicles in front of them. Additionally, as with any severe winter storm, motorists should ensure their vehicles have a full tank of fuel, and include a flashlight with extra batteries, blankets to keep occupants warm, windshield scraper and brush, first aid kit and a cell phone with charger and extra battery if possible.

The Harford County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will activate at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday evening with Level 1 (Emergency Management team) staffing only. The EOC will activate with increased staffing to Level 2 Wednesday morning at 6:00 a.m. and will remain staffed throughout the storm event.

Personnel assigned to the Harford County Department of Public Works, Division of Highways will report for work at 9:00 p.m. Tuesday evening and will work through the night on snow removal and road treatment as necessary.

( more )

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“Although we are not concerned with winds at this time, snow and ice could result in power outages,” Ayers said. “Accumulations of ice can bring down tree branches on power lines thereby disrupting electrical service. Any storm consisting of a mix of snow, freezing rain and ice can be a serious public safety issue,” remarked Ayers.

For further information on storm and emergency preparedness, visit the Harford County Department of Emergency Services website at [www.harfordpublicsafety.org](http://www.harfordpublicsafety.org) or call 410-638-4900.

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“Preserving Harford’s past; promoting Harford’s future”